EXHIBIT A

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/17/2020 09:36 AM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 121-CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 2 of 82 PageID #: 67/17/2020 Page 2 of 82 PageID #: 67/17/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS			Filed:	
				Index No.:
THALIA LARDOUTSOS			Plaintiff designates QUEENS County as the	
Plaintiff(s),			place of trial.	
-against-			SUMMONS	
LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC	IMPROVEMENT	AND	LOWE'S	HOME The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence:
	Defendant(s).			20-32 Utopia Parkway
			Whitestone, NY 11357	

To the above named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiff's attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service of this summons, or within 30 days after service of this summons is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York.

In case of your failure to answer this summons, a judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint, together with the costs of this action.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

DEFENDANTS:

Lowe's Home Improvement 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/17/2020 09:36 AM NYSCEF DOC. NO. 710351/2020 Page 3 of 82 Page 17/17/2020

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FORWARD THIS IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR ATTORNEY OR INSURANCE COMPANY

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/17/2020 09:36 AM

INDEX NO. 710351/2020

OCASE 1:21-cv-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 4 of 82 Page D #: 87/17/2020

	VERIFIED COMPLAINT
COUNTY OF QUEENS	Index No.:
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK	

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff, by her attorneys, SACCO & FILLAS, LLP, as and for her Verified Complaint, respectfully alleges, upon information and belief:

- The plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, at all times herein mentioned was and still is a resident of the County of Queens and the State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a
 domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of
 New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the
 State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement transacted business within the State of New York.
- 5. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 6. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement expected or should reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.
- 7. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

revenue from interstate or international commerce.

- 8. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 10. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 11. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 12. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 13. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 14. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 15. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 16. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive,

County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 17. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 18. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 19. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 20. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 21. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 22. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 23. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC transacted business within the State of New York.
- 24. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 25. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC expected or should

109:36 AM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 7.0f.82 Page D. #: 11/21 Page 7.0f.82 Page D. #: 107/17/2020

- reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.
- 26. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from interstate or international commerce.
- 27. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 28. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 29. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 30. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 31. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 32. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 33. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 34. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 35. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 36. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 37. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 38. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 39. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 40. That on or about May 30, 2020, while the plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, was lawfully upon the defendant's premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, when she was caused to fall by a dangerous, hazardous and unsafe condition of the curb in the parking lot located in front of the subject premises, causing her to sustain grievous personal injuries with attendant special damage.
- 41. Solely as a result of the defendants' negligence, carelessness and recklessness, Thalia

 Lardoutsos was caused to suffer severe and serious personal injuries to mind and body, and
 further, that Thalia Lardoutsos was subjected to great physical pain and mental anguish.
- 42. The aforesaid occurrence was caused by the negligence of the defendants, without any

culpable conduct on the part of Thalia Lardoutsos.

- 43. By reason of the foregoing, Thalia Lardoutsos was severely injured and damaged, sustained severe nervous shock and mental anguish, great physical pain and emotional upset, some of which injuries are believed to be permanent in nature and duration, and Thalia Lardoutsos will be permanently caused to suffer pain, inconvenience and other effects of such injuries; Thalia Lardoutsos incurred and in the future will necessarily incur further hospital and/or medical expenses in an effort to be cured of said injuries; and Thalia Lardoutsos will be unable to pursue Thalia Lardoutsos's usual duties with the same degree of efficiency as prior to this accident, all to Thalia Lardoutsos's great damage.
- 44. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has become sick, sore, lame and disabled, has sustained severe and serious injuries, has suffered and will continue to suffer severe mental and nervous shock with accompanying pain, has required medical treatment and was and will be unable to attend to her usual duties for a long period of time; was obliged to and did expend large sums of money for medical care and attention and will be required to expend additional sums of money for medical care in the future to attend to her injuries which she believes to be of a permanent nature.
- 45. As a result of the foregoing negligence of the defendants, the plaintiff has expended and become obligated for the sums of money for medical care and attention for the plaintiff in an effort to cure her of her injuries and to alleviate her pain and suffering; was caused to incur damages.
- 46. This action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in Section 1602 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.
- 47. Due to defendants' negligence, plaintiff is entitled to damages.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment awarding damages, in an amount exceeding the monetary jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/17/2020 09:36 AM PAGE 10 OF 82 Page 10 OF

have jurisdiction, together with interest and the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/17/2020 09:36 AM

NYSCEF DOBS: 121-cv-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 11 of 82 Page 11 of 82 Page 15/17/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

INDEX NO .:

Plaintiff(s),

INDIVIDUAL VERIFICATION

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Thalia Lardoutsos, sworn, deposes and says:

That I am the plaintiff in the within action.

I have read the foregoing SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT and know the contents thereof and the same is true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief and that as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Thalia Lardoutsos

Sworn to before me this

16 day of V(1)4 ,2020

Notary Public

Yamilett C. Pernett
Commissioner of Deeds, City of New York
No. 4-10170

Cert. Filed in Queens County Commission Expires November 1, 2020

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MCCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 07/17/2020 09:36 AM

NYSCEF DOG: NO. 710351/2020

NYSCEF DOG: NO. 710351/2020

Page 12 of 82 Page DOG: 16/17/2020

SUPREME GOURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

SUMMONS and VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated: Queens, NY July 10, 2020

Signature:

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
Thalia Lardoutsos
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

INDEX NO. 710351/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION FOR

	horizing Individual Filing Agent)
I, TONINO SACCO 2375772) am an authorized System ("NYSCEF") (User ID TSACC REGINA M. SZMUC NYSCEF filing agent ID to file document	, Esq., (Attorney Registration No. user of the New York State Courts Electronic Filing
consented to e-filing, to any mandatory	y consensual matter in which I have previously matter in which I have recorded my representation, and he filing agent to record my consent or representation
agent for filing in any such matter. This	y and all documents I generate and submit to the filing authorization, posted once on the NYSCEF website as to ord, shall be deemed to accompany any document filed
either by debiting an account the filing a	o matters of payment, which the filing agent may make gent maintains with the County Clerk of any authorized I maintain with the County Clerk of any authorized e-
This authorization regarding this on a prescribed form delivered to the E-	s filing agent shall continue until I revoke it in writing Filing Resource Center.
Dated: 06/18/2019	
	ASTORIA, NY 11102
Signature	City, State and Zip Code
TONINO SACCO, ESQ.	718-746-3440
Print Name	Phone
SACCO & FILLAS LLP	tsacco@saccofillas.com
Firm/Department	E-Mail Address
31-19 NEWTOWN AVE, 7 FL	
Street Address	(6/6/13)

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 08/04/2020 12:35 PM NYSCEF DOC: NO:21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21

Form 27 - AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 14 404/2020

P3494341

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP REGINA M. SZMUC SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY STATE OF NEW YORK

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

PLAINTIFF

index No. 710351/2020

Date Filed

Office No. 24230-20

Court Date.

- vs -

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETANO

DEFENDANT

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU

CHARLES SPANO being duly sworn, deposes and says; I am over 18 years of age, not a party to this action, and reside in the State of New York. That on the 23RD day of JULY, 2020 11:05AM at

:SS:

700 DIBBLEE DRIVE

GARDEN CITY NY 11530

I served a true copy of the SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT upon LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT the DEFENDANT therein named by delivering to, and leaving personally with CHRIS OBANYA, MANAGER AUTHORIZED TO ACEPT a true copy of each thereof.

Deponent describes the person served as aforesaid to the best of deponent's ability at the time

and circumstances of the service as follows:

SEX: MALE COLOR: BLACK HAIR: BALD APP.AGE: 53 APP. HT: 5'8 APP. WT: 190

OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES

GLASSES

Sworn to before me this

JULY, 2020

HOMPSON

Notary Public, State of New York

NO. 01TH6368449

Qualified in KINGS COUNTY Commission Expires 12/11/2021 CHARLES SPANO

PM Legal, LLC 75 MAIDEN LANE 11TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10038

Reference No: 3-SFLLP-3494341

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FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 08/04/2020 12:35 PM NYSCEF DOC: NO.21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21

Form 27 - AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 15 $\frac{1}{10}04/2020$

P3494366

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP REGINA M. SZMUC SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY STATE OF NEW YORK

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

PLAINTIFF

index No. 710351/2020 Date Filed

Office No. 24230-20

Court Date.

- vs -

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETANO

DEFENDANT

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU

CHARLES SPANO being duly sworn, deposes and says; I am over 18 years of age, not a party to this action, and reside in the State of New York. That on the 23RD day of JULY, 2020 11:05AM

:SS:

700 DIBBLEE DRIVE GARDEN CITY NY 11530

I served a true copy of the SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT upon LOWES'S HOME CENTERS, LLC the DEFENDANT therein named by delivering to, and leaving personally with CHRIS OBANYA, MANAGER AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT a true copy of each thereof.

Deponent describes the person served as aforesaid to the best of deponent's ability at the time

and circumstances of the service as follows:

SEX: MALE COLOR: BLACK HAIR: BALD APP.AGE: 53 APP. HT: 5'8 APP. WT: 190 OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES

GLASSES

Sworn to before me this 24TH day of JULY, 2020

THOMPSON

Notary Public, State of New York

NO. 01TH6368449

Qualified in KINGS COUNTY Commission Expires 12/11/2021 CHARLES SPANO

PM Legal, LLC

75 MAIDEN LANE 11TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10038

Reference No: 3-SFLLP-3494366

Ø

SUPREME COURT	OF	THE	STATE	OF	NEW	YORK
COUNTY OF						

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION FOR <u>ELECTRONIC FILING</u> (Managing Attorney Authorizing Filing Agent Entity)

I, Some Kotz, Esq., (Attorney Registration No.) am the
managing attorney of/attorney in charge of e-filing for
(the "Firm"). I hereby acknowledge and represent that the attorneys in the Firm who are authorized users of the New York State Electronic Filing System ("NYSCEF") hereby authorize any employee of PM LEGAL who possesses a NYSCEF filing agent ID to file documents on their behalf and at their direction, as a filing agent, in any e-filed matter in which they are counsel of record through NYSCEF, as provided in Section 202.5-b of the Uniform Rules for the Trial Courts.
This authorization extends to any consensual matter in which these attorneys have previously consented to e-filing or may hereafter consent, to any mandatory matter in which they have recorded their representation, and to any matter in which they authorize the filing agent to record consent or representation in the NYSCEF system.
This authorization extends to any and all documents these attorneys generate and submit to the filing agent for filing in any such matter. This authorization, posted once on the NYSCEF website as to each matter in which these attorneys are counsel of record, shall be deemed to accompany any document in that matter filed by the filing agent on behalf of these attorneys.
This authorization also extends to matters of payment, which the filing agent may make either by debiting an account the filing agent maintains with the County Clerk of any authorized e-filing county or by debiting an account the Firm maintains with the County Clerk of any authorized e-filing county.
This authorization regarding this filing agent shall continue until the Firm revokes the authorization in writing on a prescribed form delivered to the E-Filing Resource Center.
Dated: 123,2018
Astoria by 11102
Signature City, State and Zip Code
JUSEPH 10HZ (#18) 269- 2217
Print Name Phone
Firm/Department Lestophone Saccotilos com E-Mail Address
21 10 100 House Ave
Street Address

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 NYSCEF $\frac{1}{1}$ Case 12:1-cv-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page $\frac{17}{1}$ Page $\frac{17}{1}$

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS	
	Index No. 710351/2020
THALIA LARDOUTSOS,	
Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT
-against-	
LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,	
Defendants.	

COUNSELORS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that upon the annexed Affirmation of Tonino Sacco, Esq., dated the 6th day of November, 2020, the Affidavit of Plaintiff, THALIA LARDOUTSOS, sworn to the 6th day of November, 2020, and upon all the pleadings and proceedings heretofore had herein, the undersigned will move before this Court at an at the Courthouse located at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, N.Y. 11435 on the 14th day of December, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard for an Order pursuant to Section § 3215 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules, directing the entry of judgment upon default in favor of Plaintiff and against the Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, on the issue of liability and setting the matter down for an inquest as to damages, for an award of costs, disbursements and reasonable attorney's fees to abide this Motion, and for such other and further relief as to this Court may seem just and proper.

The above-entitled action is for personal injuries. This action is not on the trial calendar.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, pursuant to Section § 2214(b) of the Civil Practice Law and Rules, all answering papers, if any, shall be served at least seven (7) days before the return

date of this motion.

Dated: Astoria, New York November 6, 2020

Yours, etc.,

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq. SACCO & FILLAS, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 31-19 Newtown Avenue Seventh Floor Astoria, New York 11102 (718) 746-3440 Our File # 24230-20

TO: LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, N.Y. 11530

LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530 Index No. 710351/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

THALIA LARDOUTSOS,

Plaintiff,

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated: Astoria, N.Y.

November 6, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.

Signature:

SACCO & FILLAS, LLI

Attorneys for Plaintiff
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM

NYSCEF DOS: 0.21-cv-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 20 of 82 Page D #: 24/06/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS	
THALIA LARDOUTSOS,	Index No. 710351/2020

Plaintiff,

AFFIRMATION IN SUPPORT

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,

Defendants.

Tonino Sacco, Esq., an attorney admitted to practice in the State of New York, affirms the following under the penalties of perjury:

- 1. That I am of the law firm of Sacco & Fillas, LLP, the attorneys of record for the Plaintiff, and, as such, I am thoroughly conversant with the facts and circumstances herein based upon the contents of the file maintained by this office.
- 2. I make this Affirmation in Support of this Motion for an order directing the entry of a judgment by default against the Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, as to the issue of liability, setting the matter down for an inquest as to damages at the trial of this action, awarding the costs, disbursements and reasonable attorney's fees to abide this motion, and for such other and further relief as to this Court may seem just and proper.
- 3. This is an action for personal injuries occurring from an incident on May 30, 2020 when the Plaintiff was caused to fall by a dangerous, hazardous and unsafe condition of the curb in the parking lot in front of the Defendants' premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, causing her to sustain grievous personal injuries with attendant special damage.
 - 4. A Summons and Verified complaint were served upon Defendant, LOWE'S HOME

IMPROVEMENT, on or about July 23, 2020. To date, no answer has been interposed on behalf of Defendant, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT. True photocopy of the Summons and Verified Complaint is attached hereto as *Exhibit A*. True photocopy of the Affidavit of Service is attached hereto as *Exhibit B*.

- 5. A Summons and Verified complaint were served upon Defendant, LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, on or about July 23, 2020. To date, no answer has been interposed on behalf of Defendant, LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC. True photocopy of the Summons and Verified Complaint is attached hereto under *Exhibit A*. True photocopy of the Affidavit of Service is attached hereto as *Exhibit C*.
- 6. The time for Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, to appear and interpose an answer has now expired.
 - 7. C.P.L.R. § 3215(a) provides:

"When a defendant has failed to appear, plead or proceed to trial of an action reached and called for trial, or when the court orders a dismissal for any other neglect to proceed, the plaintiff may seek a default judgment against him."

- 8. "Due process requires proof of service on the defendant prior to entry of a default judgment." People v. Eica Const. Corp., 85 Misc.2d 1026, 381 N.Y.S.2d 377 (1975).
- 9. In compliance with the additional service requirements imposed by the C.P.L.R., your Affirmant's office sent letters on August 24, 2020, that included a copy of the Summons and Verified Complaint and Affidavit of Service, to the Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, advising them that a Summons and Verified Complaint were served upon them. These letters were sent via first class mail in plain envelopes marked "Personal and Confidential" as required by C.P.L.R. § 3215(f). The letters did not evince any

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Case Case County Clerk Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 22 of 82 Page H: 16/06/2020

marking that it was sent from an attorney's office or that it concerned an alleged lawsuit. True photocopies of good faith letters are attached hereto as *Exhibit D*. The Affidavit of Additional Mailing under C.P.L.R. § 3215(f) is attached herein as *Exhibit E*.

- 10. That the Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, have not served an Answer or moved with respect to the Complaint herein, nor have their time to do so been extended.
- 11. That, therefore, Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, are now in default.
- 12. Attached hereto as *Exhibit F* is the Affidavit of the Plaintiff, duly sworn to the 6th day of November, 2020, respectfully, which sets forth the facts constituting the claim and the default.
- 13. That no previous application for the relief sought in this Motion has ever been made; and due to the foregoing, default judgment against the Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, should be granted in favor of the Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this motion be granted in its entirety, and that such other and further relief be granted as to this Court seems just and proper, including the costs of this motion.

Dated: Astoria, New York November 6, 2020

Tonino Saceo, Esq.

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 710351/2020 Page 23 of 82 Page #: 17/06/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS			
THALIA LARDOUTSOS,			
Plaintiff,			
-against-			
LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,			
Defendants.			
STATE OF NEW YORK } } SS.:			

Scott Diamond, being duly sworn, says:

I am not a party to the action; I reside at Mineola, New York, and I am over 18 years of age.

On the 6th day of November, 2020, I served the within Notice of Motion for Default Judgment along with Supporting Affidavit and Affirmation, and Request for Judicial Intervention by depositing true copies thereof, enclosed in a post-paid wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within New York State, addressed to the following at the last known address set forth below:

Lowe's Home Improvement 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530 Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

Index No. 710351/2020

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

Sworn to before me on November 6, 2020

COUNTY OF QUEENS

NOTARY PUBLIC

Scott Diamond

TONINO SACCO
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02SA4979498
Qualified in Queens County
Commission Expires April 01, 2023

4

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:36 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO. 2 - CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 24 of 82 PageID #: 28 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 01/08/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS			Filed:	
				Index No.:
THALIA LARDOUTSOS			Plaintiff designates QUEENS County as the	
Plaintiff(s),			place of trial.	
-against-			SUMMONS	
LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC	IMPROVEMENT	AND	LOWE'S	HOME The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence:
	Defendant(s).			20-32 Utopia Parkway
			Whitestone, NY 11357	

To the above named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiff's attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service of this summons, or within 30 days after service of this summons is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York.

In case of your failure to answer this summons, a judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint, together with the costs of this action.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

DEFENDANTS:

Lowe's Home Improvement 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:38 RM | INDEX NO. 710351/2020 | NYSCEF DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 | Page 25 of 82 PageID #: 29/08/2020

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FORWARD THIS IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR ATTORNEY OR INSURANCE COMPANY

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:38 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO: 9 - CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 26 of 82 Page LD #: 30/08/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK	
COUNTY OF QUEENS	

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff, by her attorneys, SACCO & FILLAS, LLP, as and for her Verified Complaint, respectfully alleges, upon information and belief:

- The plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, at all times herein mentioned was and still is a resident of the County of Queens and the State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a
 domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of
 New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the
 State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement transacted business within the State of New York.
- 5. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement expected or should reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.
- 7. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

revenue from interstate or international commerce.

- At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 10. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 11. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 12. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 13. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 14. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 15. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 16. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive,

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County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 17. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 18. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 19. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 20. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 21. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 22. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 23. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC transacted business within the State of New York.
- 24. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 25. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC expected or should

reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.

- 26. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from interstate or international commerce.
- 27. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 28. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 29. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 30. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 31. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 32. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 33. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 34. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 35. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 36. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 37. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 38. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 39. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 40. That on or about May 30, 2020, while the plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, was lawfully upon the defendant's premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, when she was caused to fall by a dangerous, hazardous and unsafe condition of the curb in the parking lot located in front of the subject premises, causing her to sustain grievous personal injuries with attendant special damage.
- 41. Solely as a result of the defendants' negligence, carelessness and recklessness, Thalia

 Lardoutsos was caused to suffer severe and serious personal injuries to mind and body, and
 further, that Thalia Lardoutsos was subjected to great physical pain and mental anguish.
- 42. The aforesaid occurrence was caused by the negligence of the defendants, without any

culpable conduct on the part of Thalia Lardoutsos.

- 43. By reason of the foregoing, Thalia Lardoutsos was severely injured and damaged, sustained severe nervous shock and mental anguish, great physical pain and emotional upset, some of which injuries are believed to be permanent in nature and duration, and Thalia Lardoutsos will be permanently caused to suffer pain, inconvenience and other effects of such injuries; Thalia Lardoutsos incurred and in the future will necessarily incur further hospital and/or medical expenses in an effort to be cured of said injuries; and Thalia Lardoutsos will be unable to pursue Thalia Lardoutsos's usual duties with the same degree of efficiency as prior to this accident, all to Thalia Lardoutsos's great damage.
- 44. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has become sick, sore, lame and disabled, has sustained severe and serious injuries, has suffered and will continue to suffer severe mental and nervous shock with accompanying pain, has required medical treatment and was and will be unable to attend to her usual duties for a long period of time; was obliged to and did expend large sums of money for medical care and attention and will be required to expend additional sums of money for medical care in the future to attend to her injuries which she believes to be of a permanent nature.
- 45. As a result of the foregoing negligence of the defendants, the plaintiff has expended and become obligated for the sums of money for medical care and attention for the plaintiff in an effort to cure her of her injuries and to alleviate her pain and suffering; was caused to incur damages.
- 46. This action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in Section 1602 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.
- 47. Due to defendants' negligence, plaintiff is entitled to damages.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment awarding damages, in an amount exceeding the monetary jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:38 RM | INDEX NO. 710351/2020 | NYSCEF DOC: NO. 710351/2020 | Page 32 of 82 Page ID #: 36/08/2020

have jurisdiction, together with interest and the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Toning Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorney's for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:38 PM

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

INDEX NO.:

Plaintiff(s),

INDIVIDUAL VERIFICATION

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Thalia Lardoutsos, sworn, deposes and says:

That I am the plaintiff in the within action.

I have read the foregoing SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT and know the contents thereof and the same is true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief and that as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Thalia Lardoutsos

Sworn to before me this

16 day of V(1)4 ,2020

Notary Public

Yamilett C. Pernett
Commissioner of Deeds, City of New York
No. 4-10170

Cert. Filed in Queens County Commission Expires November 1, 2020

8

BACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:36 RM | INDEX NO. 710351/2020 | NYSCEF DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 | Page 34 of 82 Page D #: 38/05/2020

SUPREME GOURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

SUMMONS and VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated: Queens, NY July 10, 2020

Signature:

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
Thalia Lardoutsos
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 08/06/2020 0 02:38 PM Filed 02/11/21

Document 1-1

Form 27 - AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 35 406/2020

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP REGINA M. SZMUC SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY STATE OF NEW YORK

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

PLAINTIFF

index No. 710351/2020 Date Filed

Office No. 24230-20

Court Date.

- vs -

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETANO

DEFENDANT

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU

CHARLES SPANO being duly sworn, deposes and says; I am over 18 years of age, not a party to this action, and reside in the State of New York. That on the 23RD day of JULY, 2020 11:05AM

:SS:

700 DIBBLEE DRIVE GARDEN CITY NY 11530

I served a true copy of the SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT upon LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT the DEFENDANT therein named by delivering to, and leaving personally with CHRIS OBANYA, MANAGER AUTHORIZED TO ACEPT a true copy of each thereof.

Deponent describes the person served as aforesaid to the best of deponent's ability at the time

and circumstances of the service as follows:

SEX: MALE COLOR: BLACK HAIR: BALD APP.AGE: 53 APP. HT: 5'8 APP. WT: 190 OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES

GLASSES

Sworn to before me this

JULY, 2020

THÖMPSON

Notary Public, State of New York

NO. 01TH6368449

Qualified in KINGS COUNTY Commission Expires 12/11/2021 CHARLES SPANO

PM Legal, LLC 75 MAIDEN LANE 11TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10038

Reference No: 3-SFLLP-3494341

QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 08/06/2020 02:38 PM

Document 1-1

Form 27 - AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 36 of 406/2020

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P3494366

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP REGINA M. SZMUC SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY STATE OF NEW YORK

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

PLAINTIFF

index No. 710351/2020 Date Filed

Office No. 24230-20

Court Date.

- vs -

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETANO

DEFENDANT

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU

CHARLES SPANO being duly sworn, deposes and says; I am over 18 years of age, not a party to this action, and reside in the State of New York. That on the 23RD day of JULY, 2020 11:05AM

:SS:

700 DIBBLEE DRIVE GARDEN CITY NY 11530

I served a true copy of the SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT upon LOWES'S HOME CENTERS, LLC the DEFENDANT therein named by delivering to, and leaving personally with CHRIS OBANYA, MANAGER AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT a true copy of each thereof.

Deponent describes the person served as aforesaid to the best of deponent's ability at the time

and circumstances of the service as follows:

SEX: MALE COLOR: BLACK HAIR: BALD APP.AGE: 53 APP. HT: 5'8 APP. WT: 190

OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES

GLASSES

Sworn to before me this 24TH day of JULY, 2020

THOMPSON

Notary Public, State of New York

NO. 01TH6368449

Qualified in KINGS COUNTY Commission Expires 12/11/2021 CHARLES SPANO

PM Legal, LLC

75 MAIDEN LANE 11TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10038

Reference No: 3-SFLLP-3494366

1 of 1

ILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 CASE DOC: NO. 12V-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 37.0f 82 PageID #: 41/06/2020 PAGE RECEIVED NYSCEF



91 7199 9991 7039 8817 5639

31-19 Newtown Avenue Seventh Floor Astoria, NY 11102

Tel: 718 746-3440 Direct: 718 269-2231 Direct Fax: 718 425-9931

rszmuc@saccofillas.com www.saccofillas.com

Tonino Sacco* Elias N. Fillas Luigi Brandimarte*

Lamont K. Rodgers Albert R. Matuza, Jr. U. William Sung Joanne Ciaramella Joseph Katz Patricia R. Lynch Richard Schirmer James R. Baez* Ronald B. Groman Elliot L. Lewis Zachary S. Kaplan Steven Hoffman Dana M. Whitfield Eric S. Cantor Roman Grutman* Iames A. Wolff Angel R. Vitiello Michael S. Warycha Evan R. Levtow Jared Scotto Boris Bernstein Christopher P. DelCioppio Elizabeth A. Athenas Alexander Berger David E. Silverman Hariharan Krishnaraj Cindy Simms

*Also admitted in New Jersey Admitted in New Jersey only

Additional Offices:

Bayside

42-40 Bell Boulevard Suite 301 Bayside, NY 11361 August 24, 2020

Lowe's Home Improvement 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

Re: Lardoutsos v. Lowe's Home Improvement

Index No.: 710351/2020

Date of incident: May 30, 2020

File # 24230-20

Dear Lowe's Home Improvement:

Please be advised that this office represents Thalia Lardoutsos for injuries sustained in an accident at 700 Dibblee Dr, Garden City, NY on May 30, 2020.

As you are aware, your Corporation was served with a summons and complaint on July 23, 2020. Copies of the Summons, Verified Complaint and Affidavit of Service are enclosed.

Your last date to answer was August 20, 2020.

No extension of time to answer has ever been requested nor has any answer been served on your behalf. You are now very seriously in default answering. If this office does not ACTUALLY RECEIVE an answer on your behalf, WHETHER BY MAIL, FAX OR PERSONAL DELIVERY, NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, a motion for a judgment by default will be made and, ONCE SERVED, WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES - NOT EVEN THE RECEIPT OF AN ANSWER THEREAFTER. A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENFORCEABLE AGAINST YOUR PERSONAL ASSETS. YOU ARE URGED TO SEE TO IT THAT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY FULLY PROTECTS YOUR RIGHTS!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Very Truly Yours, Sacco & Fillas LLP

By: Regina M. Szmuc, Paralegal

Enclosures

QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 08/06/2020

0 02:38 PM Filed 02/11/21 Document 1-1

Form 27 - AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 38 406/2020

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP REGINA M. SZMUC SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY STATE OF NEW YORK

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

PLAINTIFF

index No. 710351/2020 Date Filed

Office No. 24230-20

Court Date.

- vs -

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETANO

DEFENDANT

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU

CHARLES SPANO being duly sworn, deposes and says; I am over 18 years of age, not a party to this action, and reside in the State of New York. That on the 23RD day of JULY, 2020 11:05AM

:SS:

700 DIBBLEE DRIVE GARDEN CITY NY 11530

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Deponent describes the person served as aforesaid to the best of deponent's ability at the time

and circumstances of the service as follows:

SEX: MALE COLOR: BLACK HAIR: BALD APP.AGE: 53 APP. HT: 5'8 APP. WT: 190

OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES

GLASSES

Sworn to before me this

JULY, 2020

THÖMPSON

Notary Public, State of New York

NO. 01TH6368449

Qualified in KINGS COUNTY Commission Expires 12/11/2021 CHARLES SPANO

PM Legal, LLC 75 MAIDEN LANE 11TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10038

Reference No: 3-SFLLP-3494341

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:36 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO. 21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 39 of 82 PageID #: 43/108/2020

SUPREME COURT	Filed:		
			Index No.:
THALIA LARDOU	JTSOS		Plaintiff designates QUEENS County as the
	place of trial.		
-again:	st-	SUMMONS	
LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC	HOME The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence:		
	20-32 Utopia Parkway		
	Whitestone, NY 11357		

To the above named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiff's attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service of this summons, or within 30 days after service of this summons is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York.

In case of your failure to answer this summons, a judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint, together with the costs of this action.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

DEFENDANTS:

Lowe's Home Improvement 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:38 RM | INDEX NO. 710351/2020 | NYSCEF DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 | Page 40 of 82 Page 10 NYSCEF 11/08/2020

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FORWARD THIS IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR ATTORNEY OR INSURANCE COMPANY

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:38 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO: 12-CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 41 of 82 Page LD #: 45/08/2020

SUPREME COURT	OF THE	STATE	OF N	EW Y	ORK
COUNTY OF QUEE	NS				

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff, by her attorneys, SACCO & FILLAS, LLP, as and for her Verified Complaint, respectfully alleges, upon information and belief:

- The plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, at all times herein mentioned was and still is a resident of the County of Queens and the State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a
 domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of
 New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the
 State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement transacted business within the State of New York.
- 5. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 6. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement expected or should reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.
- 7. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

revenue from interstate or international commerce.

- 8. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 10. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
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- 15. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 16. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive,

County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 17. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 18. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 19. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 20. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 21. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 22. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 23. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC transacted business within the State of New York.
- 24. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 25. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC expected or should

reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.

- 26. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from interstate or international commerce.
- 27. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 28. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 29. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 30. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 31. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 32. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 33. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 34. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 35. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 36. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 37. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 38. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 39. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 40. That on or about May 30, 2020, while the plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, was lawfully upon the defendant's premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, when she was caused to fall by a dangerous, hazardous and unsafe condition of the curb in the parking lot located in front of the subject premises, causing her to sustain grievous personal injuries with attendant special damage.
- 41. Solely as a result of the defendants' negligence, carelessness and recklessness, Thalia

 Lardoutsos was caused to suffer severe and serious personal injuries to mind and body, and
 further, that Thalia Lardoutsos was subjected to great physical pain and mental anguish.
- 42. The aforesaid occurrence was caused by the negligence of the defendants, without any

culpable conduct on the part of Thalia Lardoutsos.

- 43. By reason of the foregoing, Thalia Lardoutsos was severely injured and damaged, sustained severe nervous shock and mental anguish, great physical pain and emotional upset, some of which injuries are believed to be permanent in nature and duration, and Thalia Lardoutsos will be permanently caused to suffer pain, inconvenience and other effects of such injuries; Thalia Lardoutsos incurred and in the future will necessarily incur further hospital and/or medical expenses in an effort to be cured of said injuries; and Thalia Lardoutsos will be unable to pursue Thalia Lardoutsos's usual duties with the same degree of efficiency as prior to this accident, all to Thalia Lardoutsos's great damage.
- 44. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has become sick, sore, lame and disabled, has sustained severe and serious injuries, has suffered and will continue to suffer severe mental and nervous shock with accompanying pain, has required medical treatment and was and will be unable to attend to her usual duties for a long period of time; was obliged to and did expend large sums of money for medical care and attention and will be required to expend additional sums of money for medical care in the future to attend to her injuries which she believes to be of a permanent nature.
- 45. As a result of the foregoing negligence of the defendants, the plaintiff has expended and become obligated for the sums of money for medical care and attention for the plaintiff in an effort to cure her of her injuries and to alleviate her pain and suffering; was caused to incur damages.
- 46. This action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in Section 1602 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.
- 47. Due to defendants' negligence, plaintiff is entitled to damages.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment awarding damages, in an amount exceeding the monetary jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:35 PM

NYSCEF DOC: NO. 710351/2020

Page 47 of 82 PageID #: 51/08/2020

have jurisdiction, together with interest and the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:38 RM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 48 of 82 Page 1.21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 48 of 82 Page 1.52 Page 1.53 Page

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

INDEX NO.:

Plaintiff(s),

INDIVIDUAL VERIFICATION

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Thalia Lardoutsos, sworn, deposes and says:

That I am the plaintiff in the within action.

I have read the foregoing SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT and know the contents thereof and the same is true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief and that as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Thalia Lardoutsos

Sworn to before me this

16 day of V(N) 2020

Notary Public

Yamilett C. Pernett
Commissioner of Deeds, City of New York
No. 4-10170

Cert. Filed in Queens County Commission Expires November 1, 2020

8

BACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:35 PM

NYSCEF DC: NO. 710351/2020

NYSCEF DC: NO. 710351/2020

Page 49 of 82 Page 1 53/05/2020

SUPREME GOURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

SUMMONS and VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated: Queens, NY July 10, 2020

Signature:

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
Thalia Lardoutsos
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

ILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 CASE, 1.21-cv-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 50 of 82 Page D #: 54/06/2020

Sacco & Fillas, LLP Attorneys at Law

91 7199 9991 7039 8817 5646

31-19 Newtown Avenue Seventh Floor Astoria, NY 11102

Tel: 718 746-3440 Direct: 718 269-2231 Direct Fax: 718 425-9931

rszmuc@saccofillas.com www.saccofillas.com

Tonino Sacco* Elias N. Fillas Luigi Brandimarte*

Lamont K. Rodgers Albert R. Matuza, Jr. U. William Sung Joanne Ciaramella Joseph Katz Patricia R. Lynch Richard Schirmer Iames R. Baez* Ronald B. Groman Elliot L. Lewis Zachary S. Kaplan Steven Hoffman Dana M. Whitfield Eric S. Cantor Roman Grutman* James A. Wolff Angel R. Vitiello Michael S. Warvcha Evan R. Levtow Jared Scotto Boris Bernstein Christopher P. DelCioppio Elizabeth A. Athenas Alexander Berger David E. Silverman Hariharan Krishnaraj Cindy Simms

*Also admitted in New Jersey Admitted in New Jersey only

Additional Offices:

Bayside

42-40 Bell Boulevard Suite 301

Bayside, NY 11361

August 24, 2020

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

Re: Lardoutsos v. Lowe's Home Improvement

Index No.: 710351/2020

Date of incident: May 30, 2020

File # 24230-20

Dear Lowe's Home Improvement:

Please be advised that this office represents Thalia Lardoutsos for injuries sustained in an accident at 700 Dibblee Dr, Garden City, NY on May 30, 2020.

As you are aware, your Corporation was served with a summons and complaint on July 23, 2020. Copies of the Summons, Verified Complaint and Affidavit of Service are enclosed.

Your last date to answer was August 20, 2020.

No extension of time to answer has ever been requested nor has any answer been served on your behalf. You are now very seriously in default answering. If this office does not <u>ACTUALLY RECEIVE</u> an answer on your behalf, <u>WHETHER</u> BY MAIL, FAX OR PERSONAL DELIVERY, NO LATER THAN

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020, a motion for a judgment by default will be made and, ONCE SERVED, WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES - NOT EVEN THE RECEIPT OF AN ANSWER THEREAFTER. A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENFORCEABLE AGAINST YOUR PERSONAL ASSETS. YOU ARE URGED TO SEE TO IT THAT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY FULLY PROTECTS YOUR RIGHTS!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Very Truly Yours, Sacco & Fillas LLP

By: Regina M. Szmuc, Paralegal

Enclosures

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 08/04/2020 02:38 PM

NVCCER DCASE 1.21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM Document 1-1 Filed 02/11/21

Form 27 - AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

INDEX NO. 710351/2020
Page 51 of 82 Page D.#: 55

P3494366

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP REGINA M. SZMUC SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY STATE OF NEW YORK

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

PLAINTIFF

index No. 710351/2020
Date Filed
Office No. 24230-20

Court Date.

- vs -

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT, ETANO

DEFENDANT

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU :SS:

CHARLES SPANO being duly sworn, deposes and says; I am over 18 years of age, not a party to this action, and reside in the State of New York. That on the 23RD day of JULY, 2020 11:05AM at

700 DIBBLEE DRIVE GARDEN CITY NY 11530

I served a true copy of the SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT upon LOWES'S HOME CENTERS, LLC the DEFENDANT therein named by delivering to, and leaving personally with CHRIS OBANYA, MANAGER AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT a true copy of each thereof.

Deponent describes the person served as aforesaid to the best of deponent's ability at the time

and circumstances of the service as follows:

SEX: MALE COLOR: BLACK HAIR: BALD
APP.AGE: 53 APP. HT: 5'8 APP. WT: 190

OTHER IDENTIFYING FEATURES

GLASSES

Sworn to before me this 24TH day of JULY, 2020

TIMENAT THOMPSON Notary Public, State of New York

NO. 01TH6368449

Qualified in KINGS COUNTY Commission Expires 12/11/2021 CHARLES SPANO

PM Legal, LLC 75 MAIDEN LANE 11TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, NY 10038

Reference No: 3-SFLLP-3494366

(II)

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:38 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO. 710351/2020

NYSCEF DOC: NO. 710351/2020

Page 52 of 82 Page D. 1/08/2020

SUPREME COURT	Filed:		
			Index No.:
THALIA LARDOU	JTSOS		Plaintiff designates QUEENS County as the
	place of trial.		
-again:	st-	SUMMONS	
LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC	HOME The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence:		
	20-32 Utopia Parkway		
	Whitestone, NY 11357		

To the above named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiff's attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service of this summons, or within 30 days after service of this summons is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York.

In case of your failure to answer this summons, a judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint, together with the costs of this action.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

DEFENDANTS:

Lowe's Home Improvement 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

JACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:35 RM | INDEX NO. 710351/2020 | NYSCEF DOC: NO. 710351/2020 | Page 53 of 82 Page 10/07/2020 | P

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 700 Dibblee Drive Garden City, NY 11530

FORWARD THIS IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR ATTORNEY OR INSURANCE COMPANY

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/08/2020 09:38 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO: 12-CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 54 of 82 Page LD #: 58/08/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK	
COUNTY OF QUEENS	

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

Plaintiff, by her attorneys, SACCO & FILLAS, LLP, as and for her Verified Complaint, respectfully alleges, upon information and belief:

- The plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, at all times herein mentioned was and still is a resident of the County of Queens and the State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a
 domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of
 New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the
 State of New York.
- The defendant, Lowe's Home Improvement, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement transacted business within the State of New York.
- 5. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 6. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement expected or should reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.
- 7. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Improvement derived substantial

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

revenue from interstate or international commerce.

- At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 10. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 11. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 12. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 13. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 14. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 15. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 16. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive,

0 09:36 RM Filed 02/11/21 Page 56 of 82 Page ID #: 60/08/2020

County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 17. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 18. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 19. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 20. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Improvement, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 21. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein motioned, was and still is a domestic limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business situated in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 22. The defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, at all times herein mentioned conducted and carried on business in the County of Nassau and the State of New York.
- 23. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC transacted business within the State of New York.
- 24. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from goods used or consumed or services rendered in the State of New York.
- 25. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC expected or should

reasonably have expected its acts to have consequences in the State of New York.

- 26. At all times herein mentioned, defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC derived substantial revenue from interstate or international commerce.
- 27. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC owned the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 28. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was one of the owners of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 29. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was a lessee of the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 30. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees operated the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 31. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees maintained the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 32. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees managed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 33. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees controlled the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 34. At all times herein mentioned, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees supervised the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.

- 35. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees repaired the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 36. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees inspected the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 37. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees constructed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 38. On or before May 30, 2020, the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees designed the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York.
- 39. At all times herein mentioned, it was the duty of the defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC, defendant's servants, agents and/or employees to maintain said premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, in a reasonably safe and suitable condition and in good repair.
- 40. That on or about May 30, 2020, while the plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos, was lawfully upon the defendant's premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York, when she was caused to fall by a dangerous, hazardous and unsafe condition of the curb in the parking lot located in front of the subject premises, causing her to sustain grievous personal injuries with attendant special damage.
- 41. Solely as a result of the defendants' negligence, carelessness and recklessness, Thalia

 Lardoutsos was caused to suffer severe and serious personal injuries to mind and body, and
 further, that Thalia Lardoutsos was subjected to great physical pain and mental anguish.
- 42. The aforesaid occurrence was caused by the negligence of the defendants, without any

O 09:36 PM Filed 02/11/21 Page 59 of 82 Page ID #: 63/08/2020

culpable conduct on the part of Thalia Lardoutsos.

- 43. By reason of the foregoing, Thalia Lardoutsos was severely injured and damaged, sustained severe nervous shock and mental anguish, great physical pain and emotional upset, some of which injuries are believed to be permanent in nature and duration, and Thalia Lardoutsos will be permanently caused to suffer pain, inconvenience and other effects of such injuries; Thalia Lardoutsos incurred and in the future will necessarily incur further hospital and/or medical expenses in an effort to be cured of said injuries; and Thalia Lardoutsos will be unable to pursue Thalia Lardoutsos's usual duties with the same degree of efficiency as prior to this accident, all to Thalia Lardoutsos's great damage.
- 44. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff has become sick, sore, lame and disabled, has sustained severe and serious injuries, has suffered and will continue to suffer severe mental and nervous shock with accompanying pain, has required medical treatment and was and will be unable to attend to her usual duties for a long period of time; was obliged to and did expend large sums of money for medical care and attention and will be required to expend additional sums of money for medical care in the future to attend to her injuries which she believes to be of a permanent nature.
- 45. As a result of the foregoing negligence of the defendants, the plaintiff has expended and become obligated for the sums of money for medical care and attention for the plaintiff in an effort to cure her of her injuries and to alleviate her pain and suffering; was caused to incur damages.
- 46. This action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in Section 1602 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.
- 47. Due to defendants' negligence, plaintiff is entitled to damages.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment awarding damages, in an amount exceeding the monetary jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:36 RM

NYSCEF DOC: NO:21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 60 of 82 PageID #: 64/107/2020 INDEX NO. 710351/2020

have jurisdiction, together with interest and the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper.

Dated: Astoria, New York July 10, 2020

> By: Toning Sacco, Esq. SACCO & FILLAS, LLP Attorney's for Plaintiff(s) 31-19 Newtown Avenue Seventh Floor Astoria, New York 11102 (718) 746-3440 Our File # 24230-20

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:35 PM

INDEX NO. 710351/2020

Page 61 of 82 Page D #: 65/08/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

INDEX NO.:

Plaintiff(s),

INDIVIDUAL VERIFICATION

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Thalia Lardoutsos, sworn, deposes and says:

That I am the plaintiff in the within action.

I have read the foregoing SUMMONS AND VERIFIED COMPLAINT and know the contents thereof and the same is true to the best of my knowledge, except as to those matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief and that as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Thalia Lardoutsos

Sworn to before me this

16 day of V(1)4 ,2020

Notary Public

Yamilett C. Pernett
Commissioner of Deeds, City of New York
No. 4-10170

Cert. Filed in Queens County Commission Expires November 1, 2020

8

BACCO & FILLAS, LLP

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/07/2020 09:36 PM

NYSCEF DC: NO. 710351/2020

NYSCEF DC: NO. 710351/2020

Page 62 of 82 Page D #: 66/05/2020

SUPREME GOURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

Index No.:

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

SUMMONS and VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated: Queens, NY July 10, 2020

Signature:

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
Thalia Lardoutsos
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS	
THALIA LARDOUTSOS	INDEX NO. 710351/2020
Plaintiff(s),	AFFIDAVIT OF ADDITIONAL MAILING
-against-	UNDER CPLR § 3215(f)
LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC	E
Defendant(s).	
STATE OF NEW YORK) COUNTY OF QUEENS) S.S.:	

Regina M. Szmuc, being duly sworn, swears under the penalties of perjury as follows:

- 1. I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am not a party to this action and reside in the State of New York.
- 2. On the 24th day of August, I mailed a letter that included a copy of the Summons and Verified Complaint and Affidavit of Service, to defendant LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC at 700 Dibble Drive, Garden City, NY 11530 via first class mail, advising them that an Summons and Verified Complaint was previously served on July 23, 2020. The letter was sent in a plain envelope bearing the legend "Personal and Confidential," as required by CPLR § 3215(f). The letter did not evince any marking that it was sent from an attorney's office or that it concerned an alleged debt.
- 3. Included with the Summons and Complaint was a notice advising the defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, that service was duly made upon their business on July 23, 2020.

Regina M. Szmuc

Sworn to before me on November 6, 2029

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Public, State of New York Registration #01TA6044583 Qualified In New York County Commission Expires July 10, 20 FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM

NYSCEF DO S. NO. 710351/2020

Page 64 of 82 Page DO NYSCEF #: 68/06/2020

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS	Index No. 710351/2020
THALIA LARDOUTSOS,	
Plaintiff,	AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT
-against-	APPIDAVII INSCITORI
LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,	
Defendants.	
STATE OF NEW YORK } } SS.: COUNTY OF QUEENS }	
THALIA LARDOUTSOS, being duly swom, deposes	s and says:
1. That I am the Plaintiff in the within action.	
2. I incorporate and support all the statements made in m	y attorney's accompanying Affirmation
as if stated in full herein.	
3. I make this Affidavit in Support of this Motion for de	efault judgment against the Defendants
LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CE	ENTERS, LLC.
4. This is an action for personal injuries occurring from a	n incident on May 30, 2020 when I wa
caused to fall by a dangerous, hazardous and unsafe condition	n of the curb in the parking lot in from

5. By reason of the occurrence, I sustained the following injuries, which are permanent in nature:

of the Defendants' premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York,

causing me to sustain grievous personal injuries with attendant special damage.

RIGHT WRIST¹:

¹ Below listed injured necessitated the Plaintiff to undergo an Open Reduction Internal Fixation of the right distal radius fracture on June 10, 2020 performed by Dr. David V. Tuckman.

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 11/06/2020 03:38 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020

- a) Acute complete comminuted displaced diametaphyseal distal radius fracture;
- b) Acute complete displaced ulnar styloid fracture; and multiple edemas of fingers.
- 6. Based upon the foregoing, my attorneys advise me that I have a meritorious cause of action since I was caused to be injured when I was lawfully upon said premises.
- 7. The negligence of the Defendants, LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, its agents, servants, licensees, contractors, subcontractors, employees and other affiliates, agencies and departments, and those acting under its direction, behest, permission, in the ownership, management, operation, inspection, supervision, maintenance, control and repair of the aforesaid parking lot located in front of the Defendants' premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, County of Nassau, State of New York; in permitting and allowing their property to be kept in a dangerous condition at the aforesaid location, which presented a dangerous and hazardous condition; in permitting and allowing a tripping hazard to exist on its premises; in failing to give any warning of the aforesaid dangerous and unsafe condition; in failing to provide those lawfully upon the said premises, and I, in particular, with a safe place to walk; in failing to maintain the said area in a safe condition and permitting the dangerous and unsafe condition to exist which Defendants, knew, and/or in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known, would cause injury to persons lawfully upon the parking lot in front of the Defendants' premises; in permitting and allowing the aforesaid dangerous and unsafe condition to exist in an area where people would be walking; in failing to inspect or improperly inspecting the said area; in failing to take the necessary and requisite steps to prevent this foreseeable occurrence; in failing to hire competent employees; in failing to train and instruct its employees properly with regard to safety procedure; in failing to provide its patrons and customers with a safe means of ingress and egress; and in violating the applicable laws, rules, and regulations then and there pertaining.
 - 8. I respectfully request that this Motion be granted in its entirety and that such other and further

relief be granted as to this Court seems just and proper.

x Tryy Lelo(ortso)

Sworn and subscribed to before me
This 6 day of November 2020

NOTARY PUBLIC

GENE M. TARADASH
Notary Public, State of New York
Registration #01TA6044583
Qualified In New York County
Commission Expires July 10, 20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION FOR <u>ELECTRONIC FILING</u> (Single Attorney Authorizing Individual Filing Agent)

(Single Attorney Authorizin	ng Individual Filing Agent)
I, TONINO SACCO , Esc 2375772) am an authorized user of t System ("NYSCEF") (User ID) GENE M. TARADASH NYSCEF filing agent ID to file documents on my in which I am counsel of record through the NYS the Uniform Rules for the Trial Courts.	("the filing agent") to utilize his/her behalf and at my direction in any e-filed matter
This authorization extends to any consen consented to e-filing, to any mandatory matter in to any matter in which I may authorize the filing in the NYSCEF system.	which I have recorded my representation, and
This authorization extends to any and all agent for filing in any such matter. This authoriz each matter in which I am counsel of record, sha in that matter by the filing agent.	
either by debiting an account the filing agent made-filing county or by debiting an account I maintafiling county.	ain with the County Clerk of any authorized e-
on a prescribed form delivered to the E-Filing Re	gent shall continue until I revoke it in writing esource Center.
Dated: 11/11/2019	ASTORIA, N.Y. 11102
Signature	City, State and Zip Code
TONINO SACCO, ESQ.	(718) 269-2222
Print Name	Phone
SACCO & FILLAS, LLP	TSACCO@SACCOFILLAS.COM
Firm/Department	E-Mail Address
31-19 NEWTOWN AVENUE, FL. 7	
Street Address	(6/6/13)

REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION

ia Ma

UCS-840 (rev. 07/29/2019)

-{-	SUPREME COURT, COU	NTY	OF Q	JEENS	¥]	
\ 	"Paragraphic "	e Ind	dex Iss	ued:	07/17/	2020	For Court Use Only:
CA	PTION Enter the complete case caption. Do not use et al or et ano. If	more	space	is neede	d, attacl	h a caption rider sheet.	IAS Entry Date
T	THALIA LARDOUTSOS, Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s) Judge Assigned						
-ag	ainst-					riamum(s)/reduoner(s)	Judge Assigned
L	LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, RJI Filed Date						
					Defer	ndant(s)/Respondent(s)	
NA	TURE OF ACTION OR PROCEEDING Check only one box and specify whe	re in	dicate	d.			
COI	VIMERICIAL	M	ATRIM	ONIAL			
0	Business Entity (includes corporations, partnerships, LLCs, LLPs, etc.)	0) Cont	tested			
0	Contract					iren under the age of 18, co	mplete and attach the
0	Insurance (where insurance company is a party, except arbitration)					DENDUM (UCS-840M).	
1_	UCC (includes sales and negotiable instruments)	-		Uncontest	ed Matrir	monial actions, use the Unc	ontested Divorce RJI (UD-13).
0	Other Commercial (specify):	100	ORTS				
1	TE: For Commercial Division assignment requests pursuant to 22 NYCRR 202.70(d),	0					
100	plete and attach the COMMERCIAL DIVISION RJI ADDENDUM (UCS-840C).	_0		l Victims /			
1 -	L PROPERTY Specify how many properties the application includes: Condemnation	0): iatric Malpractice	
1 '	Mortgage Foreclosure (specify): O Residential O Commercial	0		or Vehicle		atric Maipractice	
	Property Address:	_ ŏ) Prod	lucts Liabi	lity (speci	ifv):	
	NOTE: For Mortgage Foreclosure actions involving a one to four-family,	- ©	Othe	r Neglige	nce (spec	ify): Trip & Fall inciden	t
	owner-occupied residential property or owner-occupied condominium,	0				practice (specify):	
	complete and attach the FORECLOSURE RJI ADDENDUM (UCS-840F).	0		r Tort (sp			
0	Tax Certiorari	SP	ECIAL F	ROCEEDI	NGS		
0	Tax Foreclosure	0) CPLR	Article 7	5 (Arbitra	tion) [see NOTE in COMME	RCIAL section]
0	Other Real Property (specify):	0) CPLR	Article 7	8 (Body o	r Officer)	
OTI	IER MATTERS	0) Elect	tion Law			
0	Certificate of Incorporation/Dissolution [see NOTE in COMMERCIAL section]	0) Extre	eme Risk I	Protection	n Order	
0	Emergency Medical Treatment	0		. Article 9.		•	
0	Habeas Corpus	0				ender Confinement-Initial)	
0	Local Court Appeal	0				ender Confinement-Review	<i>(</i>)
0	Mechanic's Lien Name Change	0		. Article 8:		* *	
ŏ	Pistol Permit Revocation Hearing			er Mental er Special		ng (specify):	-
ŏ	Sale or Finance of Religious/Not-for-Profit Property		Othic	.i Speciai	roccean	ig (specify).	
ō	Other (specify):						
STA	TUS OF ACTION OR PROCEEDING Answer YES or NO for every gues	tion a	and en	ter addit	ional inf	ormation where indicate	
31.6	YES		NO	ter addit	ional na	ormation where maleate	
Has	a summons and complaint or summons with notice been filed?			If yes, dat	te filed:	07/17/2020	
Has	a summons and complaint or summons with notice been served?		0	If yes, dat	te served:	07/23/2020	
is th	is action/proceeding being filed post-judgment?		⊚	If yes, jud	lgment da	ite:	
NA	TURE OF JUDICIAL INTERVENTION Check one box only and enter ad	dition	nal info	rmation	where in	ndicated.	
0	Infant's Compromise						
0	Extreme Risk Protection Order Application						
0	Note of Issue/Certificate of Readiness						
0	Notice of Medical, Dental or Podiatric Malpractice Date Issue Joined:	efau	ilt lud	gment		Return Date: 12/14/	2020
0							
0						Return Date:	
0	Order to Show Cause Relief Requested: Other Ex Parte Application Relief Requested:					Return Date:	
0	Poor Person Application						
0	Request for Preliminary Conference						
Õ	Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Settlement Conference						
O	Writ of Habeas Corpus						
0	Other (specify):						

Case			nd attach the RJI ADDENDUM (Court	Judge (if assigned)	Relationship to inst	ant case = 12
NC	DNE					
AR	TIES For parties without a	n attorney check the	"Un-Rep" box and enter the pa	arty's address, phone n	umber and email in	the space provided
	If additional space is i	required, complete ar	nd attach the RJI ADDENDUM (
Tel: 1	Parties List parties in same order as listed in the	Attorneys and Unrepretor represented partie	esented Litigants s, provide attorney's name, firm na	me, address, phone and	Issue Joined For each defendant,	Insurance Carriers For each defendant
	caption and indicate roles (e.g., plaintiff, defendant, 3 rd party plaintiff, etc.)	email. For unrepresen	ted parties, provide party's addres		indicate if issue has been joined.	Indicate insurance carrier, if applicable
	Name: THALIA LARDOUTSOS Role(s): Plaintiff	SACCO & FILLAS, LLP 31-19 Newtown Avenue, As 718-269-1626; gtaradash@	storia, NY 11102 saccofillas.com		O YES • NO	
~	Name: LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT Role(s): Defendant	700 Dibblee Drive, Garden (516) 794-6531	City, NY 11530		O YES NO	
~	Name: LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC Role(s): Defendant	700 Dibblee Drive, Garden (516) 794-6531	City, NY 11530		O YES NO	
	Name: Role(s):				O YES O NO	
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Al	FIRM UNDER THE PENALTY OF PER. EXCEPT AS NOTED ABOVE, NOR HA	JURY THAT, UPON II	NFORMATION AND BELIEF, T UDICIAL INTERVENTION BEE	HERE ARE NO OTHER N PREVIOUSLY FILED	RELATED ACTIONS	S OR PROCEEDING R PROCEEDING.
)at	ed: 11/06/2020				()	
·ut				Sig	nature	
	237577	72		TONIX	Ø SACCO	
_	Attorney Registra	tion Number		Prin	t Name	

TILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 12/29/2020 03:14 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 70 of 82 Page 12/29/2020 Page 70 of 82 P

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF QUEENS

THALIA LARDOUTSOS,

VERIFIED ANSWER

Plaintiff,

v. Index No.: 710351/2020

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT and LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC,

Defendants.

Defendant, Lowe's Home Centers, LLC (incorrectly sued as "Lowe's Home Improvement and Lowe's Home Centers, LLC") ("Lowe's"), by its attorneys, Goldberg Segalla LLP, for its Verified Answer to the plaintiff's Verified Complaint, responds as follows, upon information and belief:

- 1. Lowe's denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraph 1 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 2. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 3. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 3 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 4. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 4 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 5. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 5 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 6. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 6 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 7. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 7 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 8. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 8 of the Verified Complaint.
 - 9. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 9 of the Verified Complaint.
- 10. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 10 of the Verified Complaint.

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- 11. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 11 of the Verified Complaint.
- 12. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 12 of the Verified Complaint.
- 13. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 13 of the Verified Complaint.
- 14. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 14 of the Verified Complaint.
- 15. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 15 of the Verified Complaint.
- 16. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 16 of the Verified Complaint.
- 17. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 17 of the Verified Complaint.
- 18. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 18 of the Verified Complaint.
- 19. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 19 of the Verified Complaint.
- 20. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 20 of the Verified Complaint.
- 21. In response to paragraph 21 of the Verified Complaint, Lowe's states that Lowe's Home Centers, LLC was and is a foreign limited liability company organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of North Carolina, with its principal place of business

located at 1000 Lowe's Boulevard, Mooresville, North Carolina, and denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 21 of the Verified Complaint.

- 22. Lowe's admits the allegations contained in paragraph 22 of the Verified Complaint.
- 23. Lowe's admits the allegations contained in paragraph 23 of the Verified Complaint.
- 24. Lowe's denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraph 24 of the Verified Complaint.
- 25. Lowe's denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraph 25 of the Verified Complaint.
- 26. Lowe's denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in paragraph 26 of the Verified Complaint.
- 27. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 27 of the Verified Complaint.
- 28. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 28 of the Verified Complaint.
- 29. Lowe's admits the allegations contained in paragraph 29 of the Verified Complaint.
- 30. In response to paragraph 30 of the Verified Complaint, Lowe's admits that Lowe's operated a home improvement retail store on the premises located at 700 Dibblee Drive, Garden City, New York 11530, and denies any remaining allegations contained within paragraph 30 of the Verified Complaint.
- 31. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 31 of the Verified Complaint.

- 32. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 32 of the Verified Complaint.
- 33. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 33 of the Verified Complaint.
- 34. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 34 of the Verified Complaint.
- 35. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 35 of the Verified Complaint.
- 36. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 36 of the Verified Complaint.
- 37. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 37 of the Verified Complaint.
- 38. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 38 of the Verified Complaint.
- 39. Paragraph 39 of the Verified Complaint calls for a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a response is required, Lowe's denied the allegations contained in paragraph 39 of the Verified Complaint.
- 40. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 40 of the Verified Complaint.
- 41. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 41 of the Verified Complaint.
- 42. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 42 of the Verified Complaint.

- 43. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 43 of the Verified Complaint.
- 44. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 44 of the Verified Complaint.
- 45. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 45 of the Verified Complaint.
- 46. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 46 of the Verified Complaint.
- 47. Lowe's denies the allegations contained in paragraph 47 of the Verified Complaint.
- 48. Lowe's denies each and every other allegation of the Verified Complaint not hereinbefore specifically admitted, denied, or otherwise controverted.

AS AND FOR A FIRST SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

49. The injuries and/or damages alleged in the Verified Complaint were caused in whole or in part by the culpable conduct, want of care, and assumption of risk on the part of the plaintiff, and without negligence, fault, or want of care on the part of Lowe's.

AS AND FOR A SECOND SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

50. If Lowe's is found liable to the plaintiff, its responsibility for the accident is less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the total liability assigned to all persons liable and, therefore, any recovery by the plaintiff for non-economic loss against Lowe's should be limited to its percentage of liability.

AS AND FOR A THIRD SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

51. The Verified Complaint fails to state a cause of action against Lowe's.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

52. The plaintiff's injuries, if any, were caused in whole or in part by a person or persons who are not within the control of Lowe's.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

53. That pursuant to CPLR §4545 and other applicable sections of the CPLR, Lowe's is entitled to a set off against the amount of any verdict of any monies collected from a collateral source of payment.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

54. Plaintiff failed to mitigate her alleged damages.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

55. The underlying incident and alleged resulting injuries were not proximately caused by any action or inaction of Lowe's.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

56. Plaintiff was the sole proximate cause of the alleged incident and her alleged injuries.

AS AND FOR A NINTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

57. In the event the Plaintiff seeks to recover a verdict or judgment against Lowe's, then said verdict or judgment must exclude or be reduced by those amounts which have been, or

will with reasonable certainty replace or indemnify the plaintiff, in whole or in part, for any past or future medical costs, health care, life care, or other economic loss or the benefit that is offered or provided under or in connection with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

AS AND FOR A TENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

58. If the plaintiff receives or has received sums of money in settlement of the claims asserted herein, Lowe's is entitled to the protection, provisions, and limitations of Section 15-108 of the General Obligations Law of the State of New York in reducing the claim of the plaintiff against Lowe's by the amount stipulated in the Release, the amount of consideration paid for it or the amount of the released defendants' equitable share of the damages, whichever is the greatest.

AS AND FOR AN ELEVENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

59. Any risks and dangers at the time and place set forth as the location of the happening of the incident as alleged in the Verified Complaint were open, obvious, and apparent.

AS AND FOR A TWELFTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

60. Any alleged injuries and/or expenses resulted from the pre-existing and/or unrelated medical conditions, injuries, or illnesses of the Plaintiff.

AS AND FOR A THIRTEENTH SEPARATE AND COMPLETE AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, LOWE'S ALLEGES, UPON INFORMATION AND BELIEF:

61. Lowe's reserves the right to amend this Answer and to add any applicable affirmative defenses after it has had the opportunity to discovery all facts relevant to this action.

WHEREFORE, Lowe's demands judgment as follows:

a. Dismissing plaintiff's Verified Complaint, or

TILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 12/29/2020 03:14 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 Page 77 of 82 PageID #: 81/29/2020 Page 77 of 82 PageID #: 81/29/2020

b. Reducing plaintiff's recovery in the proportion to which the plaintiff's culpable conduct, assumption of risk, and want of care bears to the culpable conduct which caused the plaintiff's damages;

c. Limiting plaintiff's recovery for non-economic loss against Lowe's to the percentage of responsibility attributed to Lowe's, if that percentage is less than fifty-one percent (51%), and

d. Such other and further relief as to this Court may seem just, proper, and equitable together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Buffalo, New York December 29, 2020

GOLDBERG SEGALLA LLP

Kenneth L. Bostick, Jr., Esq. Attorney for Defendants Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 665 Main Street Buffalo, New York 14203 (716) 566-5400

TO: Tonino Sacco, Esq.
Sacco & Fillas, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
31-19 Newtown Avenue, Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 12/29/2020 03:14 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 NYSCEF DOC: NO. 21-CV-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 78 of 82 Page DOC: NO. 21/29/2020

ATTORNEY VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK) COUNTY OF ERIE) ss:

Kenneth L. Bostick, Esq., being sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am a partner with the law firm of Goldberg Segalla LLP, attorneys for defendant Lowe's Home Centers, LLC (incorrectly sued as "Lowe's Home Improvement and Lowe's Home Centers, LLC") ("Lowe's") in this matter.
- 2. I have read the foregoing Answer and either know the contents to be true or they are alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true based upon the materials supplied by and discussions with defendant.
- 3. The reason this verification is made by deponent and not by defendant is that defendant's corporate headquarters and residences are not located in the County of Erie where deponent's law office is located, or in the County of Queens, where this action is venued.

Kenneth L. Bostick, Jr

Sworn to before me this 29th day of December, 2020.

Notary Public

SARAH A. WEISHEIT

NOTARY PUBLIC. STATE OF NEW YORK

Qualified in Chautauqua County

Commission Expires May 22, 20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS	Index No.: 710351/2020
THALIA LARDOUTSOS	STIPULATION TO WITHDRAW MOTION
73. 1. 1.00()	

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the attorneys for the respective parties herein that the motion currently returnable on January 14, 2021 is hereby withdrawn and asks the Court not to render and/or enter a Decision/Order thereon. A facsimile copy of this Stipulation shall serve as an original.

Dated: Queens, NY December 29, 2020

SACCO & FILLAS, TEP

By: Tonino Sacco, Esq.

Attorney for Thalia Lardoutsos

31-19 Newtown Avenue Seventh Floor

Seventy Floor

Astoria, NY 11102

718-746-3440

Our File No: 24230-20

Goldberg Segalia

Attorney for Defendant(s)

Lowe's Home Centers, LLC

Lowe's Home Improvement

665 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203

(716) 566-5400

By: Kenneth L. Bostick, Jr., Esq.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

INDEX NO.: 710351/2020

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

The undersigned requests a preliminary conference.

The nature of the action is to recover money damages for personal injury due to defendant's negligence.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the attorneys appearing herein are:

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff, Thalia Lardoutsos 31-19 Newtown Avenue 7 Floor Astoria, NY 11102 (718) 269-2222

Goldberg Segalla
Attorney for Defendant(s)
Lowe's Home Centers, LLC
Lowe's Home Improvement
665 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

(716) 566-5400

Dated: Astoria, New York January 19, 2021

By: Tonino Sacco Esq. SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
31-12 Newtown Avenue

Seventh Floor

Astoria, New York 11/02

(718) 746-3440

FILED: QUEENS COUNTY CLERK 01/22/2021 12:20 PM INDEX NO. 710351/2020 NYSCEF DOC NO. 21-5V-00741-LDH-RLM DOCUMENT 1-1 Filed 02/11/21 Page 81 of 82 Page 10/22/2021 INDEX NO. 710351/2020

> SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK **COUNTY OF QUEENS**

INDEX NO.: 710351/2020

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

AFFIDAVIT OF MAIL SERVICE

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

STATE OF NEW YORK **COUNTY OF QUEENS**

Regina M. Szmuc, being duly sworn, says:

I am not a party to the action; I reside at Queens, New York and I am over 18 years of age.

On 19 day of January, 2021, I served the within Request for Preliminary Conference by depositing a true copy thereof, enclosed in a post-paid wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within New York State, addressed to the following at the last known address set forth below:

Goldberg Segalla 665 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14203

Sworn to before me 19 day of January 2021

NOTARY PUBLIC

TONINO SACCO Notary Public, State of New York No. 02SA4979498 Qualified in Queens County

Commission Expires April 01, 2023

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

INDEX NO.: 710351/2020

THALIA LARDOUTSOS

Plaintiff(s),

-against-

LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT AND LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

Defendant(s).

REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed documents are not frivolous.

Dated:

Queens, NY

January 19, 2021

Signature:
By: Toning Sacco, Esq.

SACCO & FILLAS, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff(s)
Thalia Lardoutsos
31-19 Newtown Avenue
Seventh Floor
Astoria, New York 11102
(718) 746-3440
Our File # 24230-20